What is Black Psychology?

Lecture for Psych 12
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What is Black Psychology?

Outline

I. The myths & deceptions of White Studies
II. Distinguishing Features
III. Content Areas
IV. My work
The Myths of White Studies

- World map
- World history
- White psychology
  - Origins
  - Theories
  - Contributors
- The purposes of White Studies
Map of the world – commonly seen
Peters Projection
The Myths of White Studies

- World map
- World history
- White psychology
  - Origins
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White psychology & White racism

- Sir Francis Galton – Hereditary Genius (1869)
  - Regarding Africans: “These savages court slavery … You engage one of them as a servant, and you find that he considers himself as your property, so that you become the owner of a slave. They have no independence about them, generally speaking, but follow a master as a spaniel would” (1853)
Scientific Racism

- Social Darwinism: Herbert Spencer (1870) – coined the term, “Survival of the fittest” – some groups more “fit” than others. Advocated selective breeding.

- G. Stanley Hall (1887): First president of the APA, founder of the J. of Psychology: Africans and Chinese as members of “adolescent races” in a stage of “incomplete growth.”
Scientific Racism, cont’d.

- Lewis Terman – Developed the Stanford-Binet IQ test – viewed 83% of Jews as feebleminded; Blacks, Asians and Native Americans as not benefitting from public education.
- Arthur Jensen (1969)
White psychology and global disasters

- Racism and war (Nazi Germany, WWII, Vietnam, Iraq)
- Relationship to physical environment
Is psychology “White”?

- Who are the key names in psychology?
- Where are the psychologists “of color” in introduction to psychology?
The History of Black Psychology

- On the origin of the species
- On Egypt (and before)
- 1909: Gilbert Haven Jones
- 1920s – Francis Cecil Sumner
- 1969 – The ABPsi
Distinguishing Features of Black Psychology

- World View – centering the science and practice in the world view of African people.
World Views

**Eurocentric**
- Control of nature
- Individualism
- Materialism
- Ahistorical
- Militaristic (Man. Dest.)
- Value free
- Fictional

**African Centered**
- Harmony with nature
- Collectivism
- Spiritualism
- Rooted in history
- Pacifist
- Value based
- Seeks Truth
Research and Practice in African Psychology

- Theory, research and practice – for the liberation of African people – and all people
- No research without practice; no practice without research
- Debunking White supremacy
- Proactive theory and research
Areas of Concern

- Identity
- Families and the extended family
- Gender studies
- Child Development
- Creativity – cultural studies
- Crime and violence and social pathology
- Testing/Assessment
- Clinical interventions
- Community interventions
My courses

- Introduction to psychology
- Social psychology
- Seminar in social psychology
- Experimental social psychology
- Introduction to African American psychol.
- Sem. In African American psychology
- Special topics
My passions

- Capturing History of The ABPsi
- Facebook pages
- Sojourner Truth
- Barack Obama